Welcome Parents : Below is the fee structure for strip coaching at tournaments. If you wish to have a coach with you, you MUST reserve your coach by sending an OFFICIAL request by EMAIL ONLY to info@sebastianifencing.com (Att: Gabrielle) at least 10 days before your tournament. Should you need to cancel coaching, we have a 24h applicable policy. Any last minute cancellation or no-show will result in the fee being forfeited.

First things first, the fencers will need a competitive membership with USFA, the national fencing association. To do this, you'll want to create an account in their name and then put your email address as the contact. This is the homepage: https://www.usafencing.org/ And then click "Sign into my profile", which will take you here: https://member.usafencing.org/ and you can register them there. Make sure you get the competitive membership. I haven't found a need to pay the extra for a laminated card. We printed out a copy on cardstock and keep in the fencing bag but you can also just take a photo of the card and save to your favorites and use that to scan in to the competitions. You will probably be asked to verify their age with a copy of the birth certificate, which you can just take a pic of and email to USA Fencing. You'll only have to do this once, not every year when you renew. There is more information for parents here: https://www.usafencing.org/fencing-for-parents

Coming next, you'll want to actually sign up for some tournaments! There are local tournaments where you can get a rating (E-D-C-B or A), or simply to practice competing and the opportunity to fence new people. The local tournaments are found on the site askfred.net At the top click on "Tournaments", then "Browse Tournaments", then set your choices at the top.

As far as larger tournaments (Regionals) , you will find those on the USA fencing website where you registered for the account. The RYC (regional youth circuit) earns you regional points, the higher you place, the more points you earn. These points will qualify you to fence at Nationals in the summer. They count your top 3 results in the RYC toward your standing. We are in Region 3. SYC's for Y14 and under, if you finish in the top 40% you earn national level points, Cadet and up earns regional points regardless of finish. NAC's are also national level tournaments. If you earn national points at any SYC or NAC you should automatically qualify for Summer Nationals. Once you qualify for Nationals or Junior Olympics, green dots will fill in on the fencer's dashboard on USA Fencing site.
To find tournaments, go back to your profile page and click on "Events", which will bring you to the tournament browser. I just fill in weapon, gender, and event type. For example Luke event type is Youth 14, this depends on your age. Age categories can be found here: https://www.usafencing.org/age-classification-eligibility After you hit search you'll see options all over the country. Just scroll through and see what dates/locations work for you. Once you register for a tournament you'll be able to see whatever you signed up for in your dashboard, you'll also get messages from the tournament organizers in there in case any dates or times change so don't forget to check that periodically.

Tournament format-

Once the kids check in you'll be able access the tournament info on this website: https://www.fencingtimelive.com/ There is usually a QR code on site to take you to the specific tournament but you can find it in the search. You can click on the event and see who else is competing. When you arrive at the venue, you will need to find the armorer to have your equipment inspected. There will be a list at the table of what items they are checking that day. Once everyone is checked in they'll post the pools. The fencers are divided into groups of about 5-7 kids and the strip assignment will be listed there so you know where to go. Once they get to their assigned strip they will check in with the ref and show them that they have a chest or underarm protector on under their whites as well as their inspection stamps. Each kid will fence everyone else in their pool once to 5 points. After all of the pool rounds are finished, they'll be asked to check and sign the score sheet for accuracy that the ref has so it's good to keep track of what their scores were (they may need help with this). After that, the ref turns the scores in to the bout committee and they'll be posted on the fencingtime live. You'll be able to see how well they did in the pools and how the other kids did also in the other groups. Once all of the pools have finished they split everyone up into the Direct Elimination (DE) rounds, which will also be posted with strip assignments. This usually is a waiting game because they will only have a few strips going so you'll have to listen for your name to be called. The DE round will be to 10 points for the Y10 age group and younger and 15 points for the Y12 or higher age group. If you lose, you are out. If you win you progress up to the next round. Top 8 fencers earn medals. There will always be a tie for 3rd place, they don't fence a 3rd place bout except at the Olympics. in Y10/Y8 once someone reaches 5 points you get a 1 minute break at the end of your strip to hydrate and chat with your coach. in Y12+ your break comes once someone reaches 8 points.

Next page are the coaching fees:

Competition Coaching Fees 2025-2026

In town (Max 45 Miles) competitions coaching fees:

1 fencer, $175 for first event, $ 50-second event same day.
2 fencers, $125 each for first event, $ 50-second event same day.
3 fencers, $90 each for first event, $ 50-second event same day.
4 fencers, $75 each for first event, $ 50-second event same day.

Out of town competitions coaching fees:

1 fencer, $175 for first event, $ 50-second event same day.
2 fencers, $125 each for first event, $ 50-second event same day.
3 fencers, $90 each for first event, $ 50-second event same day.
4 fencers, $75 each for first event, $ 50-second event same day.
+ $75 per day for traveling or off days.
+$50 per day (45-100 Miles and NYC), Additional $50 per 100 Miles (Max 400 Miles, then Airfare applied)

Traveling Expenses Shares:

Coaches) traveling expenses (transportation and lodging) will be divided based on the number of events the coaches) is (are) covering.
(Example: If fencer A is competing in 2 events and fencer B is competing in 1 event, then fencer A will pay 2/3 of the cost.
(Traveling days) fees, the off days) fees, and the traveling expenses plus the out-of-town coaching fees.)
- Coaching fees and traveling expenses will be paid by credit cards to the club.
- Coaches' hotel is the hosting hotel
- One coach per fencer is available only at 5 fencers or more.
- Competition venue lesson 20 min for $50.

Coaching Priority to Same Time Start:

- If fencer A is seeded number 12 and is about to fence with 15 while fencer B is seeded number 3 and is about to fence with 24, fencer A will be coached.

- If fencer A is a12 years old and fencer B is 10 years old are both fencing a Y12 event, then fencer A will be coached.